State Governments for a legal amendment to declare the water resources as a national asset considering the growing scarcity of water country wide; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Special irrigation package for farmers in Garhchiroli (Maharashtra)

†3032. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special package has been formulated for the district of Garhchiroli in Vidarbh region of Maharashtra under which wells would be dug and provided to the farmers;

(b) if so, the number of wells dug and provided to the farmers so far and whether the farmers are taking advantage of irrigaiton through these wells;

(c) the action taken so far for the segregation of districts of Maharashtra covered more than 70 per cent with forests from the jurisdiction of the Forest Act; and

- (d) the steps taken so far to build basic infrastructure such as roads, etc. in the district of Garhchiroli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has informed that there is no special package of wells formulated for Garhchiroli District of Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra, however, under Jawahar Wells Programme which is part of Employment Guarantee scheme, irrigaiton wells are provided to the farmers in Maharashtra State. In Garhchiroli District, 3405 wells have been dug under this Programme so far. The farmers are taking advantage of irrigation through these wells.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No such proposal has been received by Ministry of Water Resources from Government of Maharashtra.

(d) Activities related to construction of roads are taken up by the State Government. The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways takes up the development and maintenance of National Highways. As informed by Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, the National Highway No. 16 passes through Garhchiroli district of Maharashtra. The works for 57 km stretch on the National Highway No. 16 is entrusted to Border Road Organisaiton for development and maintenance from existing single lane road to National Highway two lane specification.

Clearance of irrigaiton projects under AIBP in West Bengal

3033. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants given to the State Government of West Bengal for irrigaiton projects under Accelerated Irrigaiton Benefit Programme (AIBP), project-wise;

(b) whether some requests form the West Bengal Government are pending under AIBP; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken for the speedy disposal of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The details of Central Loan Assistance/grants given project-wise to the State Government of West Bengal for irrigaiton projects under AIBP up to March« 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) No new proposal of irrigaiton project has been received from , Government of West Bengal for inclusion under AIBP during 2006-07. Central Assistance for ongoing projects under AIBP is released on year to year basis from time to time on the basis of proposals submitted by the State Government.